

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
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**AMBASSADOR CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY WELCOMES  
U.S. MAYORS' SUPPORT FOR FAST TRACK NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY**

The U.S. Conference of Mayors yesterday issued a unanimous resolution in support of providing Fast Track negotiating authority to the President. The Mayors issued their resolution at the annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

"The support of the Mayors underscores the importance of trade in America's economic future. We welcome their strong endorsement of an aggressive trade agenda and the need for Fast Track authority to further open markets to U.S. exports," said U.S. Trade Representative Barshefsky.

A text of the resolution is attached.

## **FAST TRACK TRADE EXPANSION AUTHORITY**

1. **WHEREAS**, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is deeply concerned with job creation, economic growth, and expanding economic prosperity throughout all of America; and
2. **WHEREAS**, the U.S. is the biggest player in international trade, accounting for 12 percent of all world goods exports and 16 percent of all world services exports; and
3. **WHEREAS**, U.S. exports accounts for about 11 percent of our Gross Domestic Product and the U.S. exported \$835.4 billion in goods and services 1996 with 1.4 million new trade-related jobs created over the last four years; and
4. **WHEREAS**, growth in U.S. exports has been responsible for about one-third of our economic growth over the last 10 years; and
5. **WHEREAS**, between 1986 and 1994, jobs supported by exports rose 63 percent -- more than four times faster than overall private industry job growth; and
6. **WHEREAS**, many of these jobs depend upon continued access to foreign markets and increased openness of those markets; and
7. **WHEREAS**, fast-track gives the President the negotiating authority necessary to conclude increasingly complex trade agreements to guarantee access for U.S. products in foreign markets; and
8. **WHEREAS**, without fast-track authority the ability of the U.S. to expand and open markets around the world will be seriously constrained and U.S. businesses will lose market opportunities and jobs to foreign competitors; and
9. **WHEREAS**, every United States President since 1974 has received fast-track trade negotiation authority from Congress,
10. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors resolve that the U.S. Congress should enact the appropriate legislation to grant the President fast-track negotiating authority.